

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01

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R 241600Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000X

INFO USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: USAF USE OF SUIPPE RANGE

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH HAVE INFORMED US THAT SUIPPE RANGE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR U.S. USE AFTER 1976. WE HAVE ASKED FOR REVIEW OF FRENCH DECISION.  
END SUMMARY.

2. FOR MANY YEARS, U.S. AIR FORCES IN EUROPE HAVE USED SUIPPE RANGE IN NORTHEASTERN FRANCE FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, INCLUDING AIR-TO-GROUND WEAPONS PRACTICE. U.S. USE OF SUIPPE RANGE HAS BEEN GRANTED BY GOF ON YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS. ON DECEMBER 17, WE RECEIVED FRENCH RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR U.S. ARMY, NAVY, MARINE AND AIR FORCE USE OF VARIOUS FRENCH TRAINING  
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FACILITIES IN 1976. INCLUDED IN THIS FRENCH RESPONSE

WAS PERMISSION FOR USE OF SUIPPE IN CALENDAR 1976.  
HOWEVER, COVERING NOTE FROM FRENCH STATED THAT BE-  
GINNING IN 1977, U.S. AIR FORCES COULD NO LONGER USE  
SUIPPE RANGE BECAUSE OF NEEDS OF FRENCH AIR FORCE  
FOR AIR-TO-GROUND FIRING THERE FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

3. WE RAISED ISSUE WITH JACQUES MARTIN (DEPUTY  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE) DECEMBER 19,  
NOTING THAT WE LOOK ON BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT FOR USAFE  
USE OF SUIPPE RANGE AS EXAMPLE OF PRAGMATIC FRANCO-  
AMERICAN POLITICAL/MILITARY COOPERATION THAT HAS  
CONTINUED NOTWITHSTANDING FRANCE'S 1966 DECISION TO  
QUIT NATO'S INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE.  
WE ADDED THAT ACCESS TO ADEQUATE TRAINING FACILITIES  
BY US FORCES IN EUROPE WAS A GROWING PROBLEM AND LOSS  
OF SUIPPE RANGE WOULD AGGRAVATE THIS PROBLEM. WE  
ASKED THAT FRENCH RECONSIDER APPARENT INTENTION TO  
CLOSE SUIPPE TO US AFTER NEXT YEAR.

4. MARTIN CLAIMED HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH FRENCH  
DECISION TO CLOSE SUIPPE TO US IN 1977. TAKING NOTE  
OF OUR ARGUMENTS, HE UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO SITUATION  
AND GIVE US MORE INFORMATION. IN MEANTIME, HE GAVE US  
FOLLOWING GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. FRENCH ARE ALSO IN  
A BIND FOR ADEQUATE TRAINING FACILITIES. GROWING USE  
OF HELICOPTER-LAUNCHED HOT MISSILE IS CASE IN POINT.  
SUIPPE IS ONE OF BEST--PERHAPS ONLY--FRENCH FIRING  
RANGE COVERING SUFFICIENT TERRITORY TO HANDLE HOT.  
FRENCH WILL ALSO NEED GREATER USE OF SUIPPE FOR  
THEIR JAGUAR TACTICAL AIRCRAFT. MARTIN SAID THAT  
SUIPPE IS ALREADY SO HEAVILY USED BY FRENCH, US,  
FRG AND CANADIANS THAT ANY ADDITIONAL USE BY FRENCH  
(E.G. HOT AND JAGUAR TRAINING) PROBABLY WILL REQUIRE  
CUT BACK IN USE BY OTHERS. HE NOTED THAT SPECIAL  
CANADIAN REQUEST FOR SUIPPE USE IN PAST YEAR HAD  
BEEN ACCOMMODATED ONLY AFTER DIFFICULT JUGGLING OF  
SCHEDEULE, A PROCESS WHICH UNDERLINED GROWING DIFFICULTY  
IN ALLOCATING TIME AT SUIPPE TO MORE FRENCH USE.

5. FRENCH AIR FORCE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMALLY INFORMED AIRA THAT  
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SUIPPE RANGE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR U.S. USE AFTER 1976,  
BUT PROBABLY AT A REDUCED LEVEL. FAF OFFICIALS STATED  
THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CLOSE THE RANGES AT  
SOLENZARA AND CAZAUX DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND  
AUGUST AND POSSIBLY SEPTEMBER. AS A RESULT OF THESE  
CLOSURES, WHICH BEGIN IN 1976, FAF WILL INCREASE USE OF  
SUIPPE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CURRENT TRAINING LEVELS,  
AND MUST CONSEQUENTLY DECREASE USE BY FOREIGN AIRCRAFT.

THUS USE OF SUIPPE BY U.S. AIRCRAFT IN 1977 WILL BE  
SOMEWHAT REDUCED, WITH LEVEL OF THIS REDUCTION AS WELL  
AS REDUCTION IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS, OPEN TO NEGOTIATION.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH THROUGH  
DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY CHANNELS HERE TO ASSURE CON-  
TINUED USE OF SUIPPE IN 1977 AND BEYOND.

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## Message Attributes

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